

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-46, and 48-65 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 39 being the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejection of each independent and dependent claim pending in the application.

Claims 2-6, 10-14, 18-25, 28-36, 40-44, 48-52, 56-60 and 63-65 were amended to clarify the recitation of the invention and not overcome a rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 13, 24, 43, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention. The Examiner states that link depth is indefinite due to the use of the word "small."

The claims have been amended to replace the word "small" with the phrase "2 or fewer." See, e.g., specification pg. 10, line 6. The claims now recite a link depth of 2 or fewer. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 5, 13, 24, 43, and 51 under 35 U.S.C 112 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 based on Pirolli

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,895,470 (Pirolli). Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli as applied to claim 1, and in further view of US 2002/0073074 (Sweet). Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli as applied to claim 9, and in further view of Sweet. Claims 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli in view of US 7,003,442 (Tsuda). Claims 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli in view of Tsuda as applied to claim 17 and in further view of Sweet. Claims 28-32 and 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli in view of Tsuda as applied to claim 17 and in further view of US 2002/0073074 (Kunitake). Claims 33-36 was rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirolli in

view of Tsuda and in view of Kunitake as applied to claim 28, and further in view of Sweet. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 9 and 17. Claim 9 has been canceled. Amended claim 1 is allowable over Pirolli and is also allowable over Pirolli in view of Tsuda. By Office's admission in rejecting claim 17, Pirolli does not disclose or suggest: a category layer specifying unit in which the category of the information to be extracted is expressed by a layer structure and an extracting unit which, in the case where only an extraction result of a lower layer in said layer structure exists and an extraction result of an upper layer is missing as a result of the extraction of the information corresponding to the category from the target document designated by said start point address designating unit, extracts a character string of a layer which is higher than that of the extraction result of said lower layer from the related document of said target document. To overcome the failings of Pirolli, the Office relies on Tsuda. However, contrary to the Office's assertions, Tsuda does not disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 17 which are now recited in amended claim 1.

For example, referring to an exemplary portion of the specification as shown on pages 28 and 29 of the present application, the category "organization name" may have four sub-items, "university name", "faculty name", "department name" and "laboratory name". The terms "university name" and "faculty name" may be considered to be higher layers, while "department name" and "laboratory name" may be considered to be lower layers. "University name" as a term is not used solely to search for the keyword "university", but to search for anything that would constitute the name of a university. In searching through hypertext documents, a laboratory name may be found, for example, "Dr. Akiyama's laboratory." In Tsuda, this term may arguably match the keyword "laboratory", which may then be used to classify the document in which it was found. Tsuda does not make use of the full term "Dr. Akiyama's laboratory" without being told to use the full term as keyword (Tsuda, col. 5, 47-52). After a lower layer term is found, for example, "Dr. Akiyama's laboratory" for the term laboratory, the search may continue to find higher layers of the layer structure for the category, to create a complete "organization name." The search may proceed to search the hypertext documents for instances of "department name", "faculty name" and "university

name” related to the already found “laboratory name” by the layer structure used to express the category in order to synthesize a full “organization name” for the laboratory.

In comparison to claim 1, the keyword system of Tsuda is wholly different from the category expressed by a layer structure contained in amended claim 1. In Tsuda, keywords are used to hierarchically organize and establish relationships between the documents in which the keywords are found (Tsuda, col. 3, lines 5-7). Keywords are not used to extract information from the documents. Additionally, a keyword as used in Tsuda is not a category expressed by a layer structure. Keywords in Tsuda may be arranged hierarchically, but they may not define categories to be searched for in the hypertext document (Tsuda, col. 5, lines 48-67, col. 6, lines 1-14). For example, the keyword “computer” will, in Tsuda, only be used to find the word “computer” in a document. In amended claim 1, a category may be expressed as a layer structure. The category layer structure may be used to search for terms within a category, as opposed to a single keyword.

Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Priolli and Tsuda.

Further, claims 2-8 and 10-38 are allowable for at least being dependent upon claim 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 based on Murashita

Claims 39 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0019499 (Murashita). Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 39, and in further view of Pirolli. Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 39, and in further view of Sweet. Claims 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Sweet as applied to claim 41, and further in view of Pirolli. Claims 45 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 39, and further in view of Pirolli. Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 47, and in further view of Pirolli. Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 47 and in further view of Sweet. Claims 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Sweet as applied to claim 49, and further in view of Pirolli. Claims 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita as applied to claim 47 and in further

view of Pirolli. Claims 55 and 63-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Tsuda. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Tsuda as applied to claim 55, and further in view of Pirolli. Claim 57 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Tsuda as applied to claim 55, and further in view of Sweet. Claims 58-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Tsuda in view of Sweet as applied to claim 57, and further in view of Pirolli. Claims 61 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita in view of Tsuda as applied to claim 55, and further in view of Pirolli. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 39 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 47 and 55. Claim 47 has been canceled. Amended claim 39 is allowable over Murashita and is also allowable over Murashita in view of Tsuda. By the Office's admission, Murashita does not disclose or suggest the features found in claim 55 that have been incorporated into amended claim 39. These features recited in claim 55 are similar to the features recited in claim 17, which are incorporated into amended claim 1. To overcome the failings of Murashita, the Office relies on Tsuda. However, for reasons similar to those discussed for claim 1, Tsuda fails to teach the features of amended claim 39, which are similar to those recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 39 is allowable over Pirolli and Tsuda.

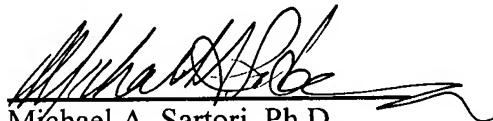
Further, claims 40-46 and 48-65 are allowable for at least being dependent upon claim 39.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 41,289
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
(202) 344-4000
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)
Attorney For Applicant

Attachments
DC2#842075